



Technicians Quarterly

<http://www.dot.state.ga.us/dot/construction/materials-research/software.shtml>

Fall, 2006

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OFFICE OF MATERIALS & RESEARCH'S ASPHALT BRANCH - BINDER CERTIFICATION -

During the week of August 7, 2006, the National Center for Asphalt Technology conducted a four-day training workshop for the Bituminous Control Binder Technicians. This was the first such training held here at the Office of Materials and Research, although others have been previously certified at NCAT's facilities located in Alabama. This workshop was held to familiarize the Bituminous technicians with the latest binder testing requirements. On the last day of the workshop, the technicians were required to take a certification exam. The Asphalt Branch is pleased to announce that all of the technicians attending the workshop passed the exam, and are now nationally certified binder technicians. Congratulations to all attendees. Pictures above are two workshop attendees: Susan Jones on left, and Fred Sexton on right.

AREA COORDINATOR'S ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Area Coordinator's Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 from 8:30am to 4:00pm. The tentative location at this time is the George T. Bagby Lodge, located in Cuthbert, Georgia, just south of Columbus, Ga. (cont. on pg. 2)

Area Coordinator's Meeting (cont.)

The purpose of this meeting is to review changes to existing specifications, materials sampling and testing procedures, laboratory and field technician training and certification, and team building. Personnel invited to attend are: Testing Management Operations Supervisors, Testing Management Area Coordinators, and Testing Management Assistant Operations Supervisors. In addition, guests in Personnel and Technical Services are invited to speak on issues in these areas and their relevance to Testing Management. Please mark your calendar.

Calendar of Joint Certification Classes for 2006/2007

Watch the mail for more information on these certification sessions.

Quality Control Technicians (QCT) - Level 1		Joint Roadway Testing Technicians (RTT)	
Jan. 16, '07	Cartersville, Ga.	Jan. 17, -07	Cartersville, Ga.
Jan. 17, '07	Gainesville, Ga.	Jan. 18, -07	Gainesville, Ga.
Jan. 31, '07	Tifton, Ga.	Jan. 31, '07	Jesup, Ga.
Feb. 01, '07	Jesup, Ga.	Feb. 01, '07	Tifton, Ga.
Feb. 13, '07	Macon, Ga.	Feb. 15, '07	Macon, Ga.
Feb. 21, '07	Tennille, Ga.	Feb. 22, '07	Tennille, Ga.
This training is designed for Asphalt Producers' Level I, Consultant Firm Level I and GDOT Field Testing Technicians and Lab personnel with a Level I Certification.		This training is designed for GDOT Field Testing Technicians, Lab personnel, as well as Consultant Engineering firms.	

Engineering Skills Development Program

The Engineering Skills Development Program is an on-going program, designed for Engineering Technicians and Laboratory Testing Technicians. A pay incentive as well as promotion is associated with the completion of the set of training activities. Testing for this program takes place each Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

The interest in this program has been down since mid-August. All Engineering Technicians and Laboratory Testing Technicians are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this great opportunity.

For further information, contact Brenda Reynolds, Training Specialist on 404-363-7525, or e-mail, Brenda.Reynolds@dot.state.ga.us.

FIELD DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM (FDACS)

WINTER 2006-07 - SCHEDULE OF TRAINING

DISTRICT	DATE	USER	BROWSER	ADMIN.
District 1	Feb. 27	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00	
	Feb. 28	9:00-12:00		1:00-4:00
District 2	Jan. 23	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00	
	Jan. 24	9:00-12:00		1:00-4:00
District 3	Jan. 30	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00	
	Jan. 31	9:00-12:00		1:00-4:00
District 4	Feb. 6	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00	
	Feb. 7	9:00-12:00		1:00-4:00
District 5	Feb. 8	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00	
	Feb. 9	9:00-12:00		1:00-4:00
District 6	Feb. 13	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00	
	Feb. 14	9:00-12:00		1:00-4:00
District 7	Feb. 21		9:00 – 12:00	
	Feb. 21		1:00-4:00	
OMR	Mar 6	9:00-12:00	1:00-4:00	
	Mar. 7	9:00-12:00		1:00-4:00

The schedule above includes classes for the different users of the Field Data Training System. As noted, there is a class for 'USERS'. This class is designed for field testing technicians, consultant testing technicians, and asphalt plant QC technicians. There is also a 'BROWSER' class. This class is designed for Persons who want to see project test results. Lastly, there is an 'ADMIN' class. This class is designed for super users who have a need to verify records submitted, set up FDACS login accounts, and help provide frontline user support.

To sign up for these classes, contact the Training Specialist in your District, or Brenda Reynolds.

Newer Technology for State Department of Transportation

The Georgia Department of Transportation Division of Information Technology has begun work on a new Materials Information Management System (MIMS) for the office of Materials and Research, which will eventually have interfaces to other GDOT Systems.

Dwight Beadle, Project Manager of the MIMS Project, has assembled a staff of analysts, who are now gathering business

Newer Technology cont.

requirements for tasks relating to materials used in Georgia's highway. This team is located at the OMR.

When the requirements have been gathered, software developers will begin relocating to OMR to devote their attention to this project.

This project is a very extensive undertaking, and will certainly be one of which we will all be proud of. The team will be interacting with various facets of OMR, in their quest to gather data. Please

continue to lend your support to the team.

Nuclear Gauge Calibration - From Old to New

The Georgia Department of Transportation is in the process of changing its nuclear gauge calibration process. The transition is from the old GDOT conventional calibration process to the new industry standard Troxler calibration process.

Calibration – From Old to New (cont.)

The GDOT calibration method is a thirty year old process and developers are no longer available to support the software, which creates many risks. If it breaks, calibration will no longer be possible in-house.

The new method allows use of modern built-in features of the Troxler gauges. Technicians will be able to read density and moisture information directly from the Troxler gauge, eliminating the need to perform calculations for count ratios and looking these figures up on the gauge chart for density and moisture, as is the current method.

As part of the transition, State Materials & Research Engineer, Georgene Geary has requested a research/impact study on the Troxler calibration process, comparing it to the GDOT conventional calibration process.

A part of this research will be the collection of field data for analysis. The data is to be collected on asphalt, GAB and several types of soil “gauge uncorrected” for a period of one month. The assistance of District 1 and District 7 field technicians with the collection and recording of data is greatly appreciated.

Annual Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Conference

The Portland Cement Branch will be holding its annual conference in Macon, Georgia, at the Macon Conference Center on Tuesday, October 10, 2006.

Registration is open to all, especially Construction/Maintenance personnel involved in concrete pavement, pavement

designers, consultants, and contractors.

The conference is being sponsored by the Georgia Department of Transportation, American Concrete Pavement Association, SE Chapter, and Federal Highway Administration.

5 PDH's will be earned after successfully completing the PCC Pavement Conference.

Registration is free. For further information, contact Nancy Bower of ACPA – SE Chapter on (919)462-9850, Ext. 101.

Recognitions/Promotions

- Pit & Quarry -

Charles Smith promoted from Technical Services II to Technical Services Engineer, III.

- Testing Management –

Robbie Braswell promoted from Engineering Technician to Lab Test Technician I.

Jimmy Wright promoted from Engineering Technician to Testing Management Field Technician 1.

Brandi Oliver promoted from Clerk 1 to Clerk 2.

Fall Safety Tips:

- ◆ Have your furnace cleaned and inspected by a qualified technician.
- ◆ Check the caulking around doors and windows for deterioration.
- ◆ Have your chimney cleaned annually.

- ◆ Inspect your smoke detector.
- ◆ Keep flammable materials, including lawn and power equipment away from water heaters and wiring.
- ◆ Insulate exposed water pipes in areas exposed to cold temperatures and turn up the thermostat during extra cold periods.

Thanks to the following contributors for submitting articles:

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Field Data Collection Systems Training & Additional Training Needs

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